FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 057 *24 March 1982*

ARGENTINA

Argentine Civilians Reportedly Occupy UK Islands B 1
UK Envoy at Foreign Ministry B 1
Costa Mendez: Missing Persons Not U.S. Business B 1
[LA PRENSA 20 Mar]
Saint Jean Hints at Lifting of State of Siege B 2
[LA NACION 22 Mar]
Temporary Commissions To Run Unions Until Elections B 3
Chilean Detained for Espionage Activities B 3
Briefs: TV Broadcasting License; Naval Chief Installed; B 3
Representative to UN Designated

BOLIVIA

Officers Invited to El Salvador as Observers C 1
Economic Situation May Cause Cabinet Crisis C 1
Reshuffle Denied C 1
Government Insists on 3-Year Political Plan C 2
Spokesman Vows 'Firm' Action To End Strikes C 2

BRAZIL

Electoral Reforms Before Elections Speculated D 1
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 6 Mar]
Sao Paulo Authorities Threaten To Fire Strikers D 3
Briefs: Senator Shifts To PTB; Deputy Joins PDS; D 3
Inflation Rate

CHILE

Pinochet Meets South African Air Force Commander E 1
Argentina Protests Punta Arenas Incident E 1
Arrest of Citizen in Argentina To Be Investigated E 1
Repatriated Citizens Allegedly Mistreated E 2
Briefs: New ENTEL Director; New Daily in Valdivia; E 2
February Cost of Living

COLOMBIA

Lemos Simmonds Proposes Regional Meeting F 1
M-19 Threatens To Sabotage 30 May Elections F 1

PERU

Ulloa Remarks on Retired Officers Repudiated J 1
De la Flor Comments J 1
Retired Major Challenges J 1
Civil Guard, Peasants Clash; Three Killed J 1
More on Confrontation J 1
Government Communique J 2
POLITIKA Reports Interview With Percovic J 2
[Belgrade 18 Mar]

MEXICO

Lopez Portillo Deplores Coup in Guatemala M 1
Secretary Says Mexico Affected M 1
Entrepreneurs To Pay 8.5 Percent Wage Increase M 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Monge Deplores Guatemalan Military Coup D'etat P 1

EL SALVADOR

Chavez Mena Pleased With Guatemalan Events P 1
Duarte on Election, Death of Netherlands Newsmen P 1
Garcia Stresses Armed Forces Political Neutrality P 2
Subversives Loot, Sack Village, Cause Blackout P 2
[EL DIARIO DE HOY 22 Mar]
Bomb Explosions Destroy 5,000 Telephones Lines P 2

GUATEMALA

Dissatisfied Army Officers Carry Out Coup D'etat P 3
'Young Officers' Lead Coup P 3
Early Events Described P 3
Rios Montt Called to Station P 3
Army Issues Communique P 4
Objectives Cited P 4
Army Communique No 2 P 5
Army Claims Full Control P 5
Army Communique No 3 P 5
'Fusion Government' Announced P 6
Lucas Garcia Government Resigns P 6
Deposed Leaders Held at Airport P 6
Gen Mejia Victores Summoned P 6
New Military Government Junta Announces Members P 7
Junta Ends Congress, Constitution P 7
Junta Warns Against Resistance P 7
News Conference Reported P 8
More on News Conference P 8
Rios Montt Heads Defense P 9
Rios Montt Addresses Nation P 9

NICARAGUA

Ambassador to Honduras Recalled for Consultation P 11
Kirkpatrick's Comments on Charges Rejected P 11
BARRICADA Defends National Emergency Decree [16 Mar] P 12
Wheelock Comments on Relations With U.S. P 13
Korean Visits State-Owned Enterprises P 15
Hanoi Statement Supports Sandinist Government P 16

ARGENTINE CIVILIANS REPORTEDLY OCCUPY UK ISLANDS

PY221701 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1456 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA) -- A navy spokesman was asked today about the report that a group of Argentines has occupied the South Georgias Islands, causing the British Government to lodge a formal protest. The spokesman answered that the issue "falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry." In turn, the Foreign Ministry reported that "there are no comments to make at this moment," and that a statement might be issued this afternoon through an official channel.

This is the report, datelined London, which was released by the news agency Agence France Presse: "The Foreign Office today released a communique announcing that a group of Argentines had disembarked, without authorization, on the South Georgia Islands on 19 March. The islands are located 900 nautical miles to the southeast of the Malvinas Islands and they are under the jurisdiction of the British administration of the Malvinas. "The communique states that the group raised the Argentine flag, thus committing an 'absolute violation of British sovereignty,' adding that the British Government has asked the Argentine Government for an immediate clarification of this incident.

"The Argentine authorities have reported to London that the group of Argentines left the island yesterday, Sunday.

"The Foreign Office indicated: We are waiting the confirmation by the British commander of the Grytviken base located in the South Georgia Islands. Argentina claims sovereignty over the Malvinas, the South Georgia Islands, the Orkney Islands and the Sandwich Islands."

UK Envoy at Foreign Ministry

PY232344 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1405 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (TELAM) -- In response to the summons of the Foreign Ministry yesterday, British Ambassador Anthony Williams arrived at the ministry at 1000 today. Accompanied by personnel of the protocol office, the ambassador went to the office of Foreign Under Secretary Enrique Ros with whom he met for 3/4 of an hour. As he was leaving at 1045, Ambassador Williams stated: We have discussed the subject you are wondering about. He added that he could not say any more on the subject. In response to a question, he did not give any importance to the incident which took place in the South Georgia Islands where a group of Argentine citizens hoisted an Argentine flag.

According to authorized sources, Ambassador Williams did not go to the ministry to present any formal protest but, according to those sources, he gave a clear and precise explanation on what had occurred. [as received]

COSTA MENDEZ: MISSING PERSONS NOT U.S. BUSINESS

PY231134 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Mar 82 pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] Yesterday Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez stated that the Argentine Government wishes to "preserve the most absolute and sovereign right of decision" regarding the subject of "missing" persons. The minister made these statements during a meeting with journalists accredited to government house after a meeting he held with the president of the nation, to which we refer in other items. During his meeting with the journalists, the minister referred to several current issues.

When asked his opinion on statements made by U.S. State Department spokesman Dean Fischer, who stated that the U.S. Government "had encouraged" the Argentine authorities to disclose the information they possess to the relatives of the "missing" persons, Minister Costa Mendez stated: "I would like to point out that at the beginning of his statements the U.S. spokesman makes a point in stating that he does not want to interfere in Argentine domestic affairs and this is very satisfactory, even though he then backtracks somewhat by stating that he gives 'encouragement' on this subject." He then stated: "We do not need anybody to encourage us on this subject and -- I would say -- that when someone tries to encourage us they discourage us. What we desire is to preserve the most absolute and sovereign right of decision on this subject."

He was also asked his opinion on recent statements by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig regarding military aid which Argentina might grant El Salvador. In this regard the minister stated: "We have let the U.S. Government know, through the corresponding channels in a cordial and friendly manner, that the announcements on the Argentine Government's foreign policy are naturally made by the Argentine Government through its president when the subject is important enough, or through the Foreign Ministry when required. This means that the Argentine foreign policy is formulated, expressed and freely determined by the Argentine Government." Costa Mendez continued: "We do not consider Haig's words an offense and believe that they are the result of an oversight or probably a misprint by some news agency, because I am not sure that what we received here is precisely what Haig said. I still have no accurate information on what Haig said and have requested our Ambassador Takacs to send me a literal version of his statements."

After stating that for the time being the government has no official announcement to make on the subject, the minister stated that he wanted to point out that Argentina "had attributed Latin America a high priority and that El Salvador is within that priority."

He added: "One thing we anxiously desire is that peace should return to El Salvador.

Regarding the Malvinas Islands, he stated that there are no new developments after the meeting recently held in New York during which Argentina proposed a mechanism to expedite consultations, meetings and discussions. He stated: "We are awaiting Great Britain's answer which we hope will be positive in order to continue the negotiations; if not, we will resort to the United Nations and will once again put the problem before that organization."

When he was asked whether he believed that the Malvinas Islands could be recovered through peaceful means and whether even the southern border conflict could be solved through these means, Costa Mendez answered: "You are dealing with one of the most intimate feelings of a foreign minister. Don't you believe a foreign relations minister should uphold peaceful means?" He added: "If a foreign minister stops believing in this, he will most probably have to let the president of the republic know. But I, in my capacity as foreign minister, firmly believe in peaceful means, but ones that are energetic and determined. Furthermore, I have great faith that Great Britain, which knows a lot about diplomacy and foreign policy, will get our message and understand our position."

SAINT JEAN HINTS AT LIFTING OF STATE OF SIEGE

PY222233 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 22 Mar 82 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] The interior minister announced yesterday that tomorrow at government house he will release "a report on the status of missing or allegedly missing persons in the country," reads a TELAM report datelined in General Roca, Rio Negro Province.

Gen Alfredo Saint Jean, who had gone to Rio Negro Province to attend the apple festival, also noted that the government is not overlooking the possibility of replacing the state of siege with a mechanism designed to restrict only the action of those sectors seeking to disrupt security and to guarantee full freedom to the rest of the country. At a press conference, Saint Jean also announced that the meeting of provincial governors will be held in Salta on 26 March.

Asked in General Roca yesterday about the possible lifting of the state of siege, General Saint Jean said: "This is not an issue which could be resolved within my area but within the military junta. Yet I can tell you that the indispensable security conditions are being achieved to move steadily toward establishing democracy." He added: "Keeping in mind a few little things, we have to be cautious and prudent since the state of siege is in force for a matter of security only. We would rather promote broad freedom and perhaps the ideal thing would be to enact a law which might not impose the same restrictions of freedom on all citizens but which might implement a system designed to enable us to impose restrictions on those who endanger security while letting the rest of the country enjoy full freedom. This is a mechanism which we are not overlooking.

TEMPORARY COMMISSIONS TO RUN UNIONS UNTIL ELECTIONS

PY221507 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1930 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (TELAM) -- Decree law 549/82, which has been signed by the president, empowering the Labor Ministry to appoint temporary commissions in all the unions currently being intervened, was made known today by that ministry. The commissions will be made up of members of the respective unions and they will have all the power that unions' statutes grant to their elected leadership. The commissions will run those unions until elections are held in keeping with the terms of the new law on labor unions (No 22,105). The decree will be gradually applied, in conformance with the situation and particular features of each union. Temporary commissions will replace present military interventions.

CHILEAN DETAINED FOR ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES

PY230121 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2340 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA) -- The Foreign Ministry released the following communique tonight: "On 16 March this year Chilean citizen Victor Guillermo Soto Hood was detained, presumably guilty of the crime of espionage. He is at the disposal of the federal judge of San Luis City for trial according to the legislation in force for this type of crime."

BRIEFS

TV BROADCASTING LICENSE -- Buenos Aires, 9 Mar (NA) -- The National Executive Branch has awarded a 15-year, extendable license to the firm Imperio Television S.A. for the installation, functioning and operation of the Rio Cuarto television broadcasting station in Cordoba. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2248 GMT 9 Mar 82 PY]

NAVAL CHIEF INSTALLED -- Bahia Blanca, 11 Mar (TELAM) -- Commander of Naval Operations Rear Adm Juan Jose Lombardo this morning installed the new commander of the Puerto Belgrano Naval Base, Capt Jorge Alfredo Motovani, who replaces Capt Julion Motoya, who is retiring. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1430 GMT 11 Mar 82 PY]

REPRESENTATIVE TO UN DESIGNATED -- Buenos Aires, 10 Mar (NA) -- For the first time in Argentine diplomacy a woman will be in charge of the Argentine mission to the United Nations. Ruth Guevara Achaval will preside over the Argentine mission, replacing Juan Carlos Beltramino, who has been appointed ambassador to the Republic of Austria. The new chief of the permanent Argentine mission to the United States is Ambassador Eduardo Rocca, who has not yet taken up his post. [text] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1133 GMT 18 Mar 82 PY]

OFFICERS INVITED TO EL SALVADOR AS OBSERVERS

PY230122 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] It was unofficially reported today in military circles that Col Luis Arce Gomez, former interior minister under the administration of Gen Luis Garcia Meza and currently an attache to the army military command, has been invited by the Salvadoran Government to travel to the Salvadoran capital as an observer to see the chaos caused there by Castro-communism. The sources noted that for undisclosed reasons Col Arce Gomez did not make the trip. In view of this, the invitation was extended to two other officers, but it was not possible to determine their names or [words indistinct].

ECONOMIC SITUATION MAY CAUSE CABINET CRISIS

PY191711 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1520 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] La Paz, 19 Mar (TELAM) -- The local press reported today that the Bolivian regime presided over by President Celso Torrelio Villa may be facing a cabinet crisis by next week if Finance Minister Javier Alcoreza Melgarejo submits his resignation. According to local press reports attributed to government sources, there will be a cabinet crisis next week, and the finance minister will submit his resignation within the next few hours.

The possibility of a cabinet reshuffle has been widely discussed in the last 10 days. It is believed that this situation is the result of a series of statements that have been issued in the last few weeks calling for the resignation of the finance minister and of the economic team because they have been unable to resolve the existing economic crisis despite the devaluation of the peso.

Asked a few days ago about a possible cabinet reshuffle, President Celso Torrelio Villa said that everything will be done at the proper time. It was learned today that the cabinet crisis was caused by the findings of the IMF group that evaluated the economic situation in Bolivia after the enforcement of corrective economic measures on 5 February. The IMF mission has reportedly suggested to the government that it enforce a system of mini-devaluations and a fluctuating dollar exchange market. Moreover, it was reported today that the National Economic and Planning Council will reevaluate those government measures that have been put into force to reactivate the national economy.

Reshuffle Denied

PY221915 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Gonzalo Romero has said that the reshuffle of the cabinet that cooperates with President Torrelio Villa falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the president. He also denied that the issue was being considered by the cabinet. Local press reports have indicated that the cabinet would be reshuffled this week. Gonzalo Romero said he was unaware of any presidential decision on that issue, adding that the cabinet meeting was analyzing issues of a clearly economic nature. He added that no alleged resignation letter has been submitted by Finance Minister Javier Alcoreza Melgarejo as had been reported by the press. He said that although there are many rumors concerning this issue he was not aware of any decision aimed at reshuffling the present cabinet.

He remarked that Minister Alcoreza Melgarejo counts on the full support of the cabinet. This support may have been reaffirmed at the special meeting held by the ministers today. The meeting started at 0730 and, based on the statement made by the foreign minister, the economic situation after the measures enacted on 5 February 1982 and the devaluations effected are being discussed with an IMF (?mission).

GOVERNMENT INSISTS ON 3-YEAR POLITICAL PLAN

PY221740 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] The government has asserted that it will continue with the 3-year plan and that it will make no political changes. The government will continue with the 3-year plan (?despite) talks with politicians and other organizations. The government dismissed an alleged shortening of the term for the [words indistinct]. This was revealed by political observers in La Paz following a communique released by the armed forces high command.

The communique makes reference to the full enforcement and execution of the 3-year plan that provides for the accomplishment of three stages prior to the country's constitutionalization. In part, the plan provides that 1982 will be devoted to solving the economic crisis, 1983 to reviewing legal instruments such as the law regulating parties and elections in order to prepare [words indistinct], and 1984 to the probable calling of a constituent assembly to introduce modifications to the constitution and to the electoral system.

The persons who last week visited the armed forces high command, which is presided over by President Torrelio, insisted on the need for accelerating the pace for returning the country to constitutional rule.

The president met with former President Banzer, members of the Christian Democratic Party and with the Confederation of Private Businessmen. All of them agreed on the need for a faster [words indistinct] from the call for the holding of talks with the parties to the formation of a constituent assembly.

This event -- the high command's holding talks on the country's political future with various groups -- created rumors which caused the high command to issue a warning that circulated in La Paz political circles and which indicated that a quicker political opening could be expected than has been planned by the government.

The communique, which appeared in the newspapers on Sunday, clearly stated that the present 3-year plan will be continued and that the above-mentioned talks are a part of the political program of the armed forces.

The communique further adds that the interviews that have been granted to citizens who have favored the holding of talks do not by any means imply any sort of political commitment whatsoever by the armed forces to those persons or groups.

SPOKESMAN VOWS 'FIRM' ACTION TO END STRIKES

PY181510 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Information Minister Juan Carlos Duran has stated that the strikes which have been taking place in some labor sectors will in no way benefit the union movement or the workers. Instead, he said, they will have a negative impact on the national economy.

He noted that these strikes are called in violation of the labor laws and that, in view of the situation the country is experiencing, it is now necessary to increase production at all levels.

[Begin Duran recording] We believe these strikes will have to end because otherwise every effort aimed at reorganizing the country will be jeopardized. In this regard, the government will act firmly. The government will in no way tolerate its programs and plans being delayed or its image eroded by a wave of entirely politically-motivated acts. The people can thus rest assured that the government will act with utmost firmness. [end recording]

ELECTORAL REFORMS BEFORE ELECTIONS SPECULATED

PY192141 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Mar 82 p 3

[From the "Notes and Information" page by C.C.: "Four Phases of Reforms Before November"]

[Text] Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel will submit next Monday for the approval of President Joao Figueiredo a bill extending for at least 4 months the period during which deputies and senators of the extinct PP [Popular Party] and the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] may switch to other parties. This will be one of four modifications to the electoral rules on which the government political advisers have agreed in recent days. In a few more weeks, and with the consent of civilian Cabinet Chief Leitao de Abreu, Minister Abi-Ackel will have ready the second reform: the elimination of votes cast purely and simply for a party label, in other words, the elector's obligation to vote for a party's candidate by name, not just for a party. Later, by May, and depending on understandings with leaders of the so-called small parties, the third phase of reforms will be launched: the government will propose to Congress the loosening of constitutional requirements for the functioning of parties in order to permit the minor parties to participate in the new Congress, even with reduced blocs. Finally, the justice minister will study some minor changes to be introduced in the Falcao law which regulates free campaigning over radio and television.

That is, in sum, the timetable of electoral reforms on the agenda of the Planalto Palace. This means that no radical or violent measures will be adopted to cope with the incorporation of the PP into the PMDB, just as the justice minister, the civilian cabinet chief and other official spokesmen have repeatedly stated in recent days. The government considers these four changes as mid-course corrections or readjustments, definitely discarding the "intra-party subgroups" rule for gubernatorial elections, an extension of mandates, an increase in the number of federal deputies, the extinction of parties, the dissolution of parties, or other such types of measures taken for expediency's sake. As for the first reform -- extending by 4 months or more the period to permit former PP-men or PMDB-politicians to seek other parties in order to run in the November elections -- the government's view is that it is necessary for the sake of justice, since the incorporation shook up the grassroots and leaderships of the two parties, as can be seen through simple newspaper reports. By the Murilo Badaro amendment now in force, the period for changing parties has already run out for members of the extinct PP; and the period granted to PMDB members to do so will expire on 14 March. These time limits are considered unjust by the government political planners. Of course, they hope that many members of the incorporated PMDB, given the opportunity, will move to the so-called small parties or even to the PDS [Social Democratic Party].

The precipitation of recent events impeded and will impede the switching parties if the first reform proposed is not approved. Not even the PMDB will find reason to oppose this reform, even considering that it can be hurt by more desertions. The government will have nothing to object to since the text of the bill will not permit elements of the PDS, PDT [Democratic Labor Party], PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] and PT [Workers Party] to leave their parties. As one of the government's high-level presidential advisers said yesterday: "After all, the incorporation was decided on by the PP and the PMDB and so they should be liable for the consequences." According to official expectations, at least 10 federal deputies, some senators, and several mayors of the new PMDB should take advantage of this bill to change parties.

The second reform -- eliminating voting for party labels and making it mandatory for party candidates -- will satisfy the demand of some PDS leaders and governors, and can be useful to the government's purposes, because this reform will determine that the "all-parties" pool of leftover votes -- those not enough for any individual party to elect a deputy [as required by the electoral quotient resulting from dividing the total number of valid votes cast by the number of seats] -- after each party has elected as many deputies as possible, will be accredited in each state to the party whose candidates have collectively drawn the largest number of votes. This means returning to the electoral law drawn up in 1945 by the late Minister Agamenon Magalhaes. Let's take an example: If after counting the votes cast for candidates of a party, and transferring votes in excess of those necessary to be elected as required by the electoral quotient, let's say 50,000 votes, from the candidates with the most votes to those with the least votes so that they can also be elected, there remain 40,000 votes, these leftover votes will go to the party in the state with the most votes -- to the PDS if it happens to gain the most votes. By the same token, the votes left over from other parties may also serve to elect one or more deputies for the PDS.

The elimination of the vote for party labels is more simple: up until now, the voters who decided to vote either in favor of or against the government had only to vote for a party, not for any specific candidate. This will disappear and the change will favor the government.

The loosening of constitutional requirements for parties to continue existing as parties -- winning 5 percent of votes cast in at least 9 states with a minimum of 3 percent in each -- is in keeping with the interests of not only the PTB, the PDT and the PT, but also of the PDS. This "loosening" will prevent a polarization between the two largest parties, the PDS and PMDB, because the so-called minor parties (PTB, PDT and PT) will then go in to elections with the assurance that, even if they do not manage to meet the constitutional requirements now in force, they will have guaranteed for themselves the possibility of surviving and functioning until 1986. This measure should result in a much greater electoral effort on the part of the three opposition minor parties, thus drawing votes away from the PMDB. The word "loosening" in this case will mean going beyond the temporary lifting of these constitutional requirements. The objective will be amending the constitution to establish minimum percentages of votes for the minor parties to stay in business. For the time being, the details of this amendment have not been worked out, because for this the government intends to meet with Leonel Brizola (PDT), Ivette Vargas (PTB) and Luis Inacio da Silva (PT) in order to seek a broad understanding and a guarantee of concrete support.

Previous information on the modification of the Falcao law can be confirmed: it will be changed but only slightly to allow candidates running for elective office to appear on television or radio and be able to say more -- but not much more -- than just their names and Electoral Court registration number. Adequate mechanisms to control violent criticism, which will not be allowed, are at present being studied.

The idea of the new Falcao law allowing debates among candidates has been dismissed. One of the government's excuses for not making great changes in one of the most controversial pieces of electoral legislation is that the political liberalization process under President Figueiredo has changed everything. For some time now, the media has been naturally increasing -- as they will continue to do in the future -- the time devoted to candidates or possible candidates. The most popular radio and television programs are those carrying political interviews or debates. From the government's viewpoint, it has become secondary, or even unimportant, to regulate the participation of candidates in the unpaid campaigning programs allowed to be aired for 60 days prior to elections. Naturally, the opposition will not agree to this since only a few political leaders -- either because of their preeminence or because they have resources for campaigning -- can take advantage of the space available for politics on television, radio and newspapers.

In sum, that is the timetable of electoral reforms to be set in motion beginning next week. There is nothing else in the offing. The advisers to President Figueiredo expect that these measures plus strong campaigning before the electorate will make it possible for the PDS to maintain the majority in the future Congress as well as the majority of the governorships. It remains to be seen if there will be other surprises, if further reactions will not be translated into new proposals. According to the official word, no. But...

SAO PAULO AUTHORITIES THREATEN TO FIRE STRIKERS

PY231234 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The Sao Paulo civil servants' strike only had partial success on its first day, but the strike general command announced that the strike will widen today. The state government, in turn, said that the stoppage is minimal and that it is organized by half a dozen of subversives.

Justice Secretary Jose Carlos Ferreira de Oliveira believes that the strike has been organized by the opposition and that it is a subversive plan. Interviewed by reporter Bahia Filho, the justice secretary denied that a list of civil servants to be dismissed has been prepared, but he did threaten to dismiss the leaders of the strike.

[Begin Oliveira recording] So far nobody has been fired. We have been informed that some civil servant sectors are on strike and in others activities are normal. Those strike leaders -- whom we know because they are always the same people -- will be accountable for their actions. We want to know if they have any connection with a subversion plan set in motion by the opposition to stir things up and take advantage of the situation so created. [end recording]

The state government, however, announced the dismissal of civil servants who joined the strike. The state civilian household released a copy of an announcement requesting applications to fill 36 jobs in the Hospital de Clinicas. The chief of the civilian household told reporter (Decio Ferreira) that civil servants are not on strike.

[Begin (Ferreira) recording] Civil servants are not on strike. There are only a half dozen pickets, subversives who want to stop the state of Sao Paulo. We do not consider this as a strike. At the Hospital de Clinicas where we have 7,000 employees, only 620 have not reported to work. These will be dismissed and tomorrow ads will be run requesting applications from people who really want to serve the population of Sao Paulo. [end recording]

BRIEFS

SENATOR SHIFTS TO PTB -- Senator Hugo Ramos has officially reported to the Senate that he left the Social Democratic Party -- PDS -- and that he joined the Brazilian Labor Party -- PTB -- of Rio de Janeiro. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Mar 82 p 2 PY]

DEPUTY JOINS PDS -- Deputy Herbert Levy, the former vice president of the Popular Party -- PP -- of Sao Paulo, has joined the Social Democratic Party -- PDS. He has said he believes "it will not be possible to prevent an opposition victory in the 1982 parliamentary elections. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Mar 82 p 2 PY]

INFLATION RATE -- The Getulio Varga Foundation has reported that February's 6.8 percent inflation rate was the highest in the last 11 months. The accumulated inflation rate for the first 2 months of this year is 13.6 percent as compared with 15.6 percent for the first 2 months of 1981. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 5 Mar 82 p 1 PY]

PINOCHET MEETS SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER

PY230138 Santiago Chile Domestic in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpt] President Pinochet today also met with Lt Gen Anthonie Michel Miller, commander in chief of the South African Air Force, with whom he discussed the cooperation existing between the two countries' air forces.

ARGENTINA PROTESTS PUNTA ARENAS INCIDENT

PY231300 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Summary] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has asked the officials of the 12th region for a detailed report on the alleged mistreatment of two Argentine citizens. According to Col Ernesto Videla, Chilean Foreign Ministry under secretary, the Argentine Government has presented a protest to the Chilean Government, but the Foreign Ministry needs more information on the alleged incident in order to issue an answer to the Argentine protest.

Asked whether incidents of this kind affect the normal relations between the two countries, Colonel Videla stated that in fact they do affect the normal relations which should exist between the two countries. "He added that it would be good to find an appropriate climate for talks. There should exist, he stated, the same harmonious climate existing between the Chilean and Argentine delegations in the Vatican City. He added that Ambassadors Enrique Bernstein and Carlos Ortiz de Rosas are not negotiating, but talking."

Asked about his opinion on Argentine Ambassador Jose Montes' remarks that the two countries must work in unity, Colonel Videla answered that we are convinced that we are neighbors in this region and we must walk together on the same path, and for this reason we want to find a solution as soon as possible.

"Colonel Videla concluded by stressing the need for a climate favorable to finding a solution to the problem." He added that they are awaiting a report from the 12th region in order to study the latest Argentine protest, which mentions alleged mistreatment of two Argentine citizens.

ARREST OF CITIZEN IN ARGENTINA TO BE INVESTIGATED

PY241037 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has asked the Chilean Embassy in Buenos Aires to send a report on the arrest of a Chilean citizen. According to reports released today, Chilean citizen Guillermo Soto Hood was detained in the city of San Luis on charges of alleged involvement in espionage activities. Since no details are available now we are awaiting a report from our embassy in the Argentine capital, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ernesto Videla said.

REPATRIATED CITIZENS ALLEGEDLY MISTREATED

PY222241 Paris AFP in Spanish 0125 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Santiago, 19 Mar (AFP) -- A group of 24 Chileans who were repatriated from Sweden, where they were denied political asylum, arrived here today heavily guarded by 12 Swedish policemen who reportedly kept them handcuffed and injected them with morphine during the long journey.

Members of the group, on their arrival at the international airport of this capital, stated that they had been expelled from Sweden charged with being Mormons and spies. They explained, however, that they were not politicians. The plane in which they were travelling landed at the Comodoro Arturo Merino Benitez Airport at 1915 (2315 GMT), after Gen Augusto Pinochet's government allowed their reentry into the country.

The 24 Chilean citizens, who belong to five Valparaiso families, accused the Swedish policemen of having ill-treated them during the long journey from Stockholm to Santiago. Most of the 24 are children or young adults.

One of the repatriated Chileans stated: They handcuffed us and injected us with morphine. Many of the members of the group had to be aided at the airport because they were obviously not physically fit and many of them were falling asleep.

They also made harsh statements against the Swedish Government, which they accused of having ordered their arrest for 15 days. During that time they were treated roughly by the police in Stockholm.

They asserted that they had travelled to Sweden 2 years ago for strictly economic reasons and repeatedly stated that they were no politicians.

Members of the Interior Ministry and policemen watched the arrival of the repatriated persons from the airport building without interfering.

After going through the necessary paperwork to enter Chile, the group got ready to travel during the evening to Valparaiso, the main Chilean port, situated 400 km northeast of Santiago.

A week ago news agency dispatches stated that the Swedish Government had decided to send back to Chile 24 Chileans, who for the last 2 years were waiting to be granted political asylum in Stockholm.

According to reports, the Swedish immigration minister stated that the group of Chileans had not submitted sufficient evidence of running risks if they returned to Chile.

BRIEFS

NEW ENTEL DIRECTOR -- Vice Adm Raul Lopez Silva has been installed as the new director of of the National Telecommunications Enterprise of Chile (ENTEL-Chile). Enrique Morchio Carvajal has been designated vice president. [Santiago Chile LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 5 Mar 82 p 4 PY]

NEW DAILY IN VALDIVIA -- A new daily named 24 HORAS will make its official appearance in Valdivia in mid-March. Eduardo Schild, mayor of the city, is one of the owners. [Santiago Chile ERCILLA in Spanish 3-9 Mar 82 p 6 PY]

FEBRUARY COST OF LIVING -- The National Statistics Institute has reported that the cost of living during February was 0.8 percent, the lowest in 14 years. [Santiago Chile LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 4 Mar 82 p 3 PY]

LEMOS SIMMONDS PROPOSES REGIONAL MEETING

PA201410 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 G.T 19 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota -- Colombian Foreign Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds has proposed a meeting of the foreign ministers of the countries that signed the Tegucigalpa declaration -- El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Venezuela and Colombia -- to analyze the region's political situation.

In a statement to this station, Lemos Simmonds said that the Tegucigalpa declaration, which was supported by Venezuela, Colombia and the United States, calls for periodic meetings to study the political situation of the Central American Democratic Community.

Meanwhile, unofficial sources stated that this summit would be held in Bogota in mid-July.

Upon his return from New York, where he participated in a Nassau group meeting, Lemos Simmonds stressed the importance of Colombia's presence in the [word indistinct] Central America and the Caribbean because of the markets it could obtain and the help that can be given to these countries to reach economic and political stability. He reiterated that a balance is important in the region because if the Caribbean goes up in flames, our ships -- full of coffee and other products -- will not be able to navigate its waters.

M-19 THREATENS TO SABOTAGE 30 MAY ELECTIONS

PA232230 Paris AFP in Spanish 1608 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Bogota, 23 Mar (AFP) -- The 19 April Movement (M-19) today threatened to launch its "final offensive" to sabotage the presidential elections on 30 May.

In a message sent to the media, the subversive group, the largest and most active in Colombia, stated that it is willing to obtain through force what it could not obtain through dialogue.

Colombia will elect a new president on 30 May from four candidates, Alfonso Lopez Michelsen and Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento, from the Liberal Party; Belisario Betancur, from the Conservative Party; and Gerardo Molina, a leftist.

The M-19 -- whose top leader Jaime Bateman Cayon, an ideologist, withdrew his name from the electoral struggle when he was told that he did not meet the requirements demanded by the constitution -- announced that it would sabotage the elections.

It was originally expected that this sabotage would occur in the 14 March elections for legislative seats but nothing occurred. Now the threat has been made against presidential elections.

ULLOA REMARKS ON RETIRED OFFICERS REPUDIATED

De la Flor Comments

PY221624 Tacna Radio Tacna in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Gen Miguel Angel de la Flor Valle, former foreign minister, has strongly rejected the declarations made by Prime Minister Manuel Ulloa. He said that he was rejecting it as a collaborator and minister of the administrationof Gen Juan Velasco Alvarado. He said that Minister Ulloa was probably disturbed by the irrational, capitulationist and antipopular policies he is carrying out. De la Flor said that the premier's declarations are a coverup and a smokescreen, that he is getting us used to this by inventing actions with the purpose of confounding the people. He condemned and (?regretted) the terrorist or guerrilla actions. He said he could not accept the intent to involve retired generals and officers who worked with the nationalist governments of General Velasco [words indistinct]. He also linked Ulloa's remarks with those of other ministers, saying that this was planned and speeded up by circumstances.

The former minister said that he did not feel affected by Ulloa's remarks, but that he could not accept the involvement of military officers of the Velasco government. Since President Belaunde became president, De la Flor said, he has avoided making political statements in order to prevent speculations by the government charging him with alleged destabilizing plans.

Retired Major Challenges

PY221810 Tacna Radio Tacna in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Maj Ret (Jose Fernandez Salvatechi) has challenged Prime Minister Manuel Ulloa to provide the names of the retired military officers who are involved in terrorist actions. He harshly criticized the lack of seriousness of Ulloa's remarks. He was angry because efforts are being made to involve members of the armed forces. He said that if the prime minister is not aware of the real purpose of terrorist acts and of those responsible for them he should resign in the name of decency. He added that this means that everything is improvised, that the intelligence services do not work and that (?to give) an explanation to the people of what is happening in the country, accusations are made to confuse the population. (Fernandez Salvatechi) said that the Belaunde administration is not able to explain the reasons for hunger, misery, exploitation [words indistinct] in the country, therefore it is using its ministers to confuse the people with baseless accusations.

CIVIL GUARD, PEASANTS CLASH; THREE KILLED

PY221358 Tacna Radio Tacna in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] A confrontation between members of the civil guard and peasants during which three peasants were killed and several were wounded took place in San Martin yesterday. The confrontation took place when the peasants blocked a highway in protest because their demands were not being met.

More on Confrontation

PY221604 Paris in AFP in Spanish 1409 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Lima, 22 Mar (AFP) -- It was reported here today that 7 peasants were killed and about 30 people were wounded, including 10 policemen, during a bloody confrontation yesterday between peasants and policemen in Tarapoto, northeast of Lima. The confrontation -- in which an officer of the civil guard was also reportedly killed -- took place when policemen arrived in San Juan and Tabalosas in Tarapoto, where the highway has been closed for a week by about 5,000 peasants who were demanding better prices for corn.

When the police tried to open the road to allow vehicle traffic, they were attacked by inflamed peasants with rocks, sticks and machetes; therefore the police were forced to use their weapons, resulting in the casualties. The peasants -- who a week ago blocked several points of the highway to Tarapoto, San Martin Department, preventing supplies from reaching the city -- have been having serious confrontations with truckers who haul food from this zone.

A major, a lieutenant and eight guards were wounded.

Government Communique

PY231453 Tacna Radio Tacna in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The government has released a communique on the events in Tarapoto. The communique states that the peasants had an unruly attitude due to the claims demanding that the price of corn be set at 135 soles per kilogram for producers and not the selling price, as was established by a resolution signed by Prime Minister Ulloa. The communique indicates that the civil guard intervened to prevent the blocking of the jungle periphery highway, that agitators helped the peasants and that the police were forced to use their weapons when the peasants tried to block the highway. It also indicates that 22 civil guardsmen were wounded while 4 peasants were killed.

[Words indistinct] government communique, it was learned last night that the government -- -- after the bloodshed -- had to correct its error and approved the price of 135 soles per kilogram of corn for producers, thus meeting the peasants' demands. Agriculture minister and Prime Minister Ulloa will probably have to appear before the legislative branch to report on this situation which has prompted unnecessary violence in the Peruvian jungle.

POLITIKA REPORTS INTERVIEW WITH PERCOVIC

AU191620 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 18 Mar 82 p 2

[Text] "The purpose of my visit to Yugoslavia is not only to deepen the friendly relations between our two countries: it can also provide an important impulse to a new era of economic relations between Yugoslavia and Peru," Luis Percovic, president of the Chamber of Deputies of the Peruvian Assembly, who is currently visiting our country -- which is the country of his ancestors -- said in an interview with TANJUG.

Peru is prepared to import much larger quantities of Yugoslav goods than in the past. The Lima government will lower the import duty tariffs by 10 percent, Percovic said, and expressed his belief that that would open the door to the Peruvian market for Yugoslav products. The Peruvians are ready to achieve an even trade balance; at present this balance is very unfavorable for the Yugoslav side. In addition to that, Peru is ready for new investments and the participation of Yugoslav experts in various projects; the prospects for this cooperation continue to be favorable especially in water resources projects and agriculture.

The Peruvian politician and one of the most prominent figures of the ruling Popular Action Party also spoke about the Peruvian experiences in self-management, and noted in this connection that, during his visit to Belgrade, he had talks on that also and that Peru is prepared to send its people to Yugoslavia to study our experiences in self-management and transfer these experiences to the Peruvian economic circles.

Percovic pointed out Peru's readiness to resolutely follow the nonaligned policy and its authentic principles. Following his official talks in Belgrade, Luis Percovic left for Split and the nearby village of Perkovic, where he met his relatives.

LOPEZ PORTILLO DEPLORES COUP IN GUATEMALA

PA240434 Paris AFP in Spanish 0400 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Mar (AFP) -- Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo today deplored here the coup d'etat in Guatemala, because it adds "tension to Central America."

The chief of state noted that the change in Guatemala, staged while a precarious democracy existed in the country, does not imply any danger for Mexico. He indicated that the situation faced today by Guatemala is the product of the unstable political picture in that country and the entire region in which it is located.

Secretary Says Mexico Affected

FL232050 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2027 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Secretary of Government Enrique Olivares Santana condemned today the coup d'etat in Guatemala and said that each day there are fewer democratic countries in the world. The official said that this event definitely affects Mexico because it is a neighboring country. He said that steps will be taken so that the flow of Guatemalans who reach the country following this situation will have the proper guarantees.

Olivares Santana was interviewed during a session of the Federal Electoral Commission which he heads.

Jorge Palmieri, Guatemalan ambassador in Mexico, told a television newscast that he did not know the details about the events in his country.

ENTREPRENEURS TO PAY 8.5 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE

FL240020 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2045 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The entrepreneurial sector has decided to grant an 8.5 percent wage increase in view of the fact that the impact of the peso's devaluation was that percentage, leaders of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers (CONCAMIN) and the Employers Confederation of the Mexican Republic (COPARMEX), Alfonso Pandal Graf and Jose Luis Coindreau, said today. The presidents of CONCAMIN and COPARMEX said that the wage increase set by the federal government is not only high, "but monstrous."

The two representatives said that the working sector will not receive the wage readjustment this Friday or at the end of the month, as the case may be, because the industrialists do not have the money.

Pandal Graf and Coindreau were interviewed at the official residence Los Pinos before their meeting with Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo. The COPARMEX leader warned that if there is no wisdom in the working sector to confront the crisis, "We will close the sources of work."

For his part, Pandal Graf said that the wage increases set by the government last week are not obligatory but merely recommendations. Finally, he said that the industrialists' plan of support for the government will be announced in the ordinary general assembly of his confederation and that the position of the private sector will be determined then.

COSTA RICA

MONGE DEPLORES GUATEMALAN MILITARY COUP D'ETAT

PA232332 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2304 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Costa Rican President-elect Luis Alberto Monge has said that he deplores the coup d'etat that was carried out today in Guatemala by the armed forces of that country. In a press communique, Monge said that we, the Costa Ricans, are used to solving our differences with votes, not bullets. He added: We hope to get information about the intentions of those who carried out the coup in order to give our opinion. However, the Costa Ricans can already express deep concern for today's incidents in Guatemala. I deplore that the Guatemalan people have not been able to find a peaceful way to choose their rulers. The Guatemalan people are not truly allowed to exercise democracy, he said.

Monge added that deeply rooted in this tragedy is the fact that the Guatemalan people are not offered any possibility to pull out of their economic chaos. Monge closely followed, minute by minute, the developments in Guatemala in order to reach the conclusions. He said that what happened in that country truly worries the Costa Ricans.

EL SALVADOR

CHAVEZ MENA PLEASED WITH GUATEMALAN EVENTS

PA240256 Paris AFP in Spanish 0020 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 23 Mar (AFP) -- Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena, who did not hide his satisfaction with the ascension to power in Guatemala of Christian Democrat Efrain Rios Montt, expressed hope that "the new government will lead the country through the paths of democracy and freedom."

Chavez Mena agreed, however, that it should be the Guatemalan people who make the final decision respecting their own future, reiterating that the Government of El Salvador will continue "with its policy of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries. We hope to always maintain friendly relations and cooperation between the peoples of Guatemala and El Salvador," the chief of Salvadoran diplomacy emphasized.

In the opinion of Chavez, every government must respect the will of the people, considering that the movement that deposed the regime of Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia is the result of a "totally debatable" electoral process. He was pleased by the presence of General Rios Montt, of the Christian Democratic Party, who was presidential candidate for an opposition front in the 1974 elections.

Asked by AFP how the Guatemalan movement may effect next Sunday's Salvadoran elections, he said that "the Salvadoran people have sufficient political maturity" and shall respond according to that maturity and responsibility. He explained, however, that the Salvadoran electoral process already has "its own dynamics and autonomy."

DUARTE ON ELECTIONS, DEATH OF NETHERLANDS NEWSMEN

PA240605 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2355 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Foreign newsmen will be impartial witnesses to the Salvadoran elections this Sunday, government junta President Jose Napoleon Duarte stated today in an official communique. Duarte said that despite the fact that many sectors of the population complain about the behavior and misinformation which some newsmen promote regarding the Salvadoran situation, the government considers it essential to act in conformity with freedom of the press.

He also noted that the government junta has made an investigation of the death of four Netherlands newsmen last week and "reached the conclusion that the tragic accident was the product of a chance encounter between guerrillas and members of the army."

GARCIA STRESSES ARMED POLITICAL NEUTRALITY

PA240610 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2237 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Armed Forces will remain neutral and outside of politics in the present electoral process, Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia reiterated today. The officer indicated that the Salvadoran Government has promoted a popular consultation to form a constituent assembly this coming 28 March "to open the doors wide to democracy."

He stated that the forces opposed to the regime are trying to block the elections, but the army "is certain that the Salvadoran people will turn out massively at the polls." Garcia stated that the armed forces have no commitment with anybody and will guarantee both the electoral process and the result of the elections.

The minister added that the people are united with the army, which has been obliged to participate in an armed struggle imposed by the leftwing, which does not want to participate in the elections because it lacks popular support.

SUBVERSIVES LOOT, SACK VILLAGE, CAUSE BLACKOUT

PA231310 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 22 Mar 82 pp 3, 37

[Text] El Triunfo, Usulutan Department, was burned and sacked. At approximately 1100, about 400 terrorists, "armed to the teeth" according to residents' statements, invaded El Triunfo, located on km 108 of the Pan-American Highway, and dynamited a Lempa Hydroelectric Executive Commission high-tension tower in Jocotillo canton. These cables supplied energy to several towns and villages in the eastern part of the country, including San Miguel. The terrorists then burned the municipal building, its files and furniture and the National Telecommunications Administration offices. Next they looted a grocery store owned by Jesus Aurora Marquez and an agency of the Supply Regulation Institute. The extremists also killed five civilian defense members and two private citizens, whose names have not yet been released.

After causing this and other damage, the subversives left the village around 0200. The destruction of the high-tension tower in Jocotillo blacked out the eastern part of the country, including San Miguel, for 17 hours. Electric service was restored at 1700 on 20 March.

BOMB EXPLOSIONS DESTROY 5,000 TELEPHONE LINES

PA240305 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0217 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Four bombs exploded tonight in San Salvador destroying 5,000 telephone lines, official sources have reported.

The bombs were placed in telephone boxes by rebels and they exploded at the same time in various parts of the downtown sector of this capital at 1920 local time (0120 GMT).

The telephone lines damaged are connected to offices, businesses, residences and information media offices. The authorities did not report any personnel losses from the bomb explosions.

GUATEMALA

DISSATISFIED ARMY OFFICERS CARRY OUT COUP D'ETAT

'Young Officers' Lead Coup

PY231903 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1855 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala, 23 Mar (TELAM) -- The Guatemalan radio [not further identified] has confirmed the exitence of a military movement, with the characteristics of a coup d'etat, which has the intention of overthrowing the government of Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia. The movement is allegedly headed by a group of young officers dissatisfied with the results of the 7 March elections which resulted in the election of the government's candidate, Gen Anibal Guevara.

The radio issued a communique in which it calls on Gen Efraim Rios Montt and Leonoel Sisniega Otero to meet, possibly in order to head a government junta. Rios Montt was Christian Democrats candidate in the 1974 elections, while Sisniega was a vice presidential candidate for the National Liberation Movement (MLN), of extreme right leaning, in the recent elections held on 7 March.

Early Events Described

OW231902 Paris AFP in English 1859 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 March (AFP) -- Military units today stated a coup against the regime of President Romeo Lucas Garcia and said over national radio that operations were "well under way and the situation is under our control." The communique identified the coup leaders only as "young officers."

Reports had said that six Guatemalan garrisons had joined the army faction that spearheaded the coup in the capital. As planes and helicopters buzzed low over the city, the insurgents occupied the presidential palace, with General Garcia later reported to be negotiating with his captors inside the building. The palace was ringed with heavily armed insurgent troops supported by artillery and armored vehicles. However no gunfire was immediately reported in the capital.

The insurgents, who also seized Guatemala City's Aurora International Airport, which later closed to all traffic, issued orders to the police to hand in their arms. Congress suspended its session. All television and radio stations were put on standby for the communique and streets were empty with all shops closed. Most telephone links with the outside world were cut also.

President Garcia was to have relinquished office in July to the winner of the March 7 election, Gen Anibal Guevara, official candidate of the ruling rightwing majority.

The sixth garrison to join the the coup was one of the country's most important, that of Quetzaltenango, 200 km (125 miles) north of the capital.

Rios Montt Called to Station

PA231835 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1821 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Brigades, zones, bases, operational areas and military detachments of the entire country: The situation in the capital is under control. The coup d'etat staged by the young officers is underway. Remain alert and do not let yourselves be deceived. We will continue to inform you about everything that takes place via the national information system and later via military channels.

An urgent call is made for Gen Efrain Rios Montt and to Leonel Sisniega Otero to proceed immediately to TGW, La Voz de Guatemala [government radio station]. Listeners of the country, remain alert for any call.

Army Issues Communique

PA231856 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1833 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Urgent communique for the Guatemalan people: The Guatemalan Army, in view of the fact that a group of unscrupulous Guatemalans have continuously subjected the country to a political, economic and social crisis, have decided to put Guatemala back on the path of true democracy, which all sectors of the country are demanding.

Respectful of the country's institutions, we were hoping that the electoral process would be an effective instrument by which to satisfactorily meet the people's aspirations. But since the elections were manipulated, frustrating the people's determination to strengthen the democratic institutions, the Guatemalan Army has the decided to rise up in arms in response to the people's clamor.

People and army: We cannot permit them to continue trampling on the dignity of Guatemala and the honor of our armed institution for the benefit of a corrupt minority. This movement has, and should be able to rely on, the support of all the military, worker, peasant, student, professionl, business and industrial sectors, and of the men and women of all social strata who, united today, as on similar occasions in the past, have restored peace and authentic democracy to Guatemala.

We want to state clearly that we are not motivated by any sectarian ambition for power and that in a few hours we will be convoking a representative government junta, to take over the political reins of the country.

At this historic moment, we ask the Guatemalan people for their usual cooperation -- we ask them to remain calm, to remain attentive, to stay in their homes waiting for the communique that will be disseminated by all media in the country in due time. We order the police forces that are still at the service of corruption to immediately place themselves at the orders of the new government. [Dated] Guatemala City, 23 March 1982, Guatemalan Army.

Objectives Cited

PY231957 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1943 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala, 23 Mar (TELAM) -- Leonel Sisniega Otero, political leader of the National Liberation Movement (rightist), who was summoned to head the military coup today read a message addressed to the people in which he explained the scope of the military coup. The message was broadcast over radio and television.

At the same time it was reported here that the air traffic at La Aurora International Airport had been resumed. This information was released as a clear sign that the coup has been successful. Diplomatic sources also wondered about the whereabouts of Gen Anibal Guevara, the winner of the 7 March elections. As last heard, General Guevara reportedly left for Miami, U.S., last week for a short vacation.

In his radio message, Sisniego Otero noted that the objective of the coup is to amend the damage caused by the fraud in the elections held on 7 March. He added that the next step will be to appoint a representative junta to head the government. He said this junta will have enough power to put an end to terrorist activities from the left and from the right.

He noted that if it is to achieve its democratic objectives for Guatemala, the military movement must rely on the support of all citizens, workers, peasants, and students. He also called on those police forces that are still loyal to corrupt commanders to abandon them and join in the ranks of the new government.

Army Communique No 2

PA232019 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1950 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Attention, Guatemalans: Here is Communique No 2 to the people of Guatemala and the international community. The Guatemalan Army asks for the understanding of our people and all the nations of the world, to explain the reasons behind our armed movement.

Due to the grave situation our country is experiencing, wavering between hunger and misery, dominated by a corrupt minority that has subjected our fellow countrymen by means of terror and corruption, isolating us from the rest of the world, and exporting an image that does not, at any moment, correspond to the true essence of Guatemalans; we have been forced to come to the rescue of our values with a truly democratic concept whose principal objective is to return respect, with a truly de jure regime that will allow the full participation of Guatemalans in drawing up a government plan which will have as its main objective seeking the common good which will result in a substantial improvement in the living conditions of the large downtrodden majorities, which will foster the total development of Guatemalan based on the effective support we will give national and foreign investors. This will also represent a change in our deteriorated international image.

As a result of the lofty principles that inspire and nourish the Guatemalan National Army, far removed from any personal or group ambition, from this moment we inform the Guatemalan people and the rest of the world of our decision to immediately form a government that represents all sectors, to have absolute respect for all our country's international treaties, and to show respect for the aspirations of all Guatemalans.

Army Claims Full Control

PA232024 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2010 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Attention, attention, people of Guatemala. The Guatemalan Army reports to all citizens that it has the absolute control of the situation throughout the nation's territory, including the capital city. At the same time, the young officers of the Guatemalan Army appreciate the many manifestations of solidarity and friendship shown by the civilian population, who are pleased at the recovery of the armed institute's prestige, which will definitely be for the benefit of Guatemala's prestige.

Army Communique No 3

PA232125 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2111 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Here is a new communique to the Guatemalan people: The national army, for the tranquillity of all the civilian population, reports that it is in total control of the national territory and that the coup d'etat, carried out for the satisfaction and with the support of the entire Guatemalan people, has overthrown the corrupt regime.

Therefore, in thanking you for your demonstration of total support, we ask you to remain calm and to continue listening to developments via the national information system.

With profound faith in the future of our great nation, we inform you of our total commitment to the democratic values which are shared by all Guatemalans and on whose behalf we have risen up in arms, out of loyalty to Guatemala and for the honor of its glorious national army. This has been commmunique No 3 to the Guatemalan people.

'Fusion Government' Announced

FL232145 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2120 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico, 23 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Maj Alfonso Trero, counselor to the Guatemalan mission today told Mexican television that the "young officers" movement, which today tried to overthrow Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia's administration, is of a centrist tendency. Trero added that the rebel officers will establish a "fusion government" which will keep its distance from the extreme right and the extreme left and indicated that the coup will be "beneficial" for Guatemala because, he said, it will bring about "a time of law and honesty." Trero emphasized that the young officers who staged the coup d'etat believed that the recent presidential election held on 7 March was a "fraud" which means that the new government will probably call new elections.

Lucas Garcia Government Resigns

PA232153 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2147 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The government of Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia surrendered this afternoon in Guatemala to the requests made by the coupist officers. Lucas Garcia surrendered at 1530 local time (2130 GMT), 1/2 hour after the deadline given by the coupists.

The government junta headed by Gen Efrain Rios Montt assumed the government of the Republic of Guatemala and has announced a press conference for 1615 local (2215 GMT).

Deposed Leaders Held at Airport

PA240517 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0456 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Early this evening, Guatemalan President-elect Gen Anibal Guevara was being detained in the military area of the La Aurora Airport in this capital. According to trustworthy sources, General Guevara was taken to the military airfield by a large contingent of soldiers.

Former President Romero Lucas Garcia, former Defense Minister Rene Mendoza Palomo and former Chief of the Army General Staff Benedicto Lucas Garcia reportedly are also detained in the same military area, but this has not been confirmed.

According to all indications, the new Guatemalan military authorities have prepared a plane to send all of these men into exile. It is not known, however, what destination the plane may have.

Gen Mejia Victores Summoned

PA232220 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2212 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Attention: Urgent call to Brig Gen (Oscar) Humberto Mejia Victores. Brig Gen (Oscar) Humberto Mejia Victores, please go as soon as possible to the commission of officers in front of the national palace. We repeat: Urgent call to Brig Gen (Oscar) Humberto Mejia Victores. Go to the commission of officers in front of the National Palace.

NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT JUNTA ANNOUNCES MEMBERS

PA232355 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2334 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Statement by Col Jaime Rabanales, public relations chief of the Guatemalan Army -- live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: I am addressing you as official spokesman of the Guatemalan Army. The armed institution, unified at all its hierarchic levels, with the objectives of recovering all the guarantees for the Guatemalan people, giving validity to the laws of the republic and guaranteeing the free exercise of human rights, has decided to establish a military government junta presided over by Brig Gen Efrain Rios Montt and having as members, Col Manuel Arrieta Villalta, Lt Col Mario Enriquez, Maj Arturo Sanchez Gudiel and Capt Carlos Rodolfo Munoz.

It is announced that the citizens' freedom of movement, expression or demonstration are not restricted. The armed institution urges subversion to set aside its attitude since any violent plots on its part will be immediately and drastically repressed. At 2100 (0300 GMT) today, the president of the military government junta will address the Guatemalan people.

Junta Ends Congress, Constitution

PA240042 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0024 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan Government junta headed by Gen Efrain Rios Montt dissolved Congress and abolished the constitution, Rios Montt announced at a press conference. The names of the other junta members are Gen Horacio Maldonado and Lt Col Francisco Gordillo. He added that the coup was strictly military and at no time had political parties participated.

The leader of the coup d'etat which put an end to the government of Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia, stated that "it was carried out against corruption and to vindicate the Guatemalan Army." General Rios Montt stated that a state of siege will not be decreed and that constitutional guarantees will continue to exist. (sentence as received). He added that the government platform of the Guatemala military junta will be announced tomorrow in a press conference.

Junta Warns Against Resistance

PA240110 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0036 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The military junta of Guatemala headed by Gen Efrain Rios Montt will announce tomorrow the calling of legislative elections, junta members announced in a meeting with newsmen. They added that they would not announce the date because the government has only been installed for a few hours, but that they would try to hold them as soon as possible.

They also indicated that a state of siege would not be decreed and that during the movement by the coupist forces there was no resistance of any kind, while at the same time they stressed that they would guarantee freedom of the press on the part of the new junta.

In another part of the conference, Rios Montt said that those who resist the new regime with arms and are caught at night on the streets will be tried and subsequently executed.

News Conference Reported

OW240144 Hong Kong AFP in English 0120 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Mar (AFP) -- A military triumvirate was set up here Tuesday after a bloodless coup overthrew the outgoing Guatemalan president, General Romeo Lucas Garcia. The new leaders said they intended to end corruption and restore democracy.

General Efrain Rios Montt, who lost a disputed election when he ran for president on the Christian Democratic ticket in 1974, was named chief of the junta, along with General Horacio Maldonado and Colonel Francisco Gordillo. Crowds of militant backers of the Reformist Opposition Party, which finished third in allegedly fraudulent elections earlier this month, poured into the streets to acclaim the new regime.

General Rios Montt told a news conference that he would call new national elections, but did not specify a date. He said congress and been dissolved and that the junta would rule by decree.

High priority would be given to breaking through Guatemala's diplomatic isolation, which he blamed on "the previous corrupt government." The junta chief said deposed President Lucas Garcia was under arrest and that, contrary to earlier reports, he would not be allowed to emigrate.

More on News Conference

PA240333 Paris AFP in Spanish 0235 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Mar (AFP) -- Gen Efrain Rios Montt, chief of the military junta that seized power in Guatemala today, said that the new regime seeks to revitalize the country's moral values and lead it toward democracy through the holding of new elections "as soon as possible." General Rios Montt assumed power after a bloodless coup d'etat against Gen Romeo Lucas led by a "movement of young army officers" whose orientation and political platform has yet to be explained.

In a news conference at the National Palace, headquarters of the government, minutes after the surrender of General Lucas -- who resisted the coup for almost 5 hours -- General Rios Montt officially announced the abrogation of the constitution and the dissolution of congress in order to give way to a de facto regime that will struggle to "redirect" the country toward democracy. Rios Montt justified the coup against Lucas by stating that it is the army's reply to "the lack of morals and ethics of previous rulers who imposed governments on us that we did not need 8 and 4 years ago.

General Rios Montt was the presidential candidate of the opposition groups in 1974, precisely 8 years ago, and was deprived of victory by electoral fraud. After his initial views on the country's situation, he presented to newsmen his two other companions in the new military government junta, Gen Horacio Maldonado Schaad and Col Francisco Gordillo. Rios Montt noted that this is not a "political campaign" movement; therefore, "the new government will not be in the hands of the politicians."

General Rios Montt also discussed some aspects of what the general guidelines of the military junta will be, indicating that in the area of foreign policy, "we want to end the isolation" in which Guatemala finds itself and "give confidence to foreign investment." On the problems of subversion, the president of the junta said that the guerrillas "will be shown that the political situation is resolved with votes," but at the same time he warned that "if they fight with arms, they must be similarly fought."

In a joking tone, General Rios Montt said that "we have declared congress dissolved in order to save, because we are in bankruptcy and must strengthen our economy."

On the situation of overthrown President Romeo Lucas Garcia, the leader of the junta was evasive although he affirmed that "nobody will leave the country." The most reliable reports learned here regarding this indicate that the president is detained at Air Force headquarters, where he was taken in an armored vehicle from the government palace after his surrender, although some rumors indicated that he had been exiled to Mexico.

The military junta announced a new press conference for tomorrow in which they will announce their government platform, [word indistinct] of which are still being drafted. Meanwhile, unofficial sources stressed that the "bloodless" coup was staged and the situation "was totally controlled" by the junta throughout the country, thus shattering reports that some bases remained loyal to General Lucas.

However, some incidents were reported, such as an attack on the home of former government Minister Donaldo Alvarez. Furthermore, the military junta was committed toward guaranteeing respect of human rights and explained that the country "is not under a state of siege."

At dusk, the streets of the Guatemalan capital were semideserted and business, which had been totally paralyzed throughout the day, will be resumed on Wednesday under the slogan of the new government: "We must strengthen ourselves and produce."

During his conference, General Rios Montt remarked that "everyone can be deceived, except God. We are doing this for God, with God and by God."

Rios Montt Heads Defense

PA240359 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0325 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The four leaders of the military coup staged today against deposed President General Romeo Lucas are not part of the government junta presented tonight by Gen Efrain Rios Montt. The direct authors of the coup are Col Manuel Argueta Villalta, Lt Col Mario Enriquez, Maj Arturo Sanchez Gudiel and Capt Carlos Rodolfo Munoz.

Nevertheless, General Rios Montt declared tonight that he himself, in addition to being president of the junta, will be directly in charge of defense matters; Gen Horacio Maldonado will be in charge of the government; and Col Francisco Gordillo will be in charge of communications. This information was given tonight by the official army spokesman, Col Jaime Rabanales, who addressed the people on a national radio and television network.

It is not known at this time what has happened to General Romeo Lucas and his brother, Gen Benedicto Lucas, who apparently left the country for an unknown destination after abandoning the presidential palace when they surrendered.

Rios Montt Addresses Nation

PA240442 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0323 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Speech by Brig Gen Efrain Rios Montt, president of Guatemalan Military Government Junta; place not given -- live]

[Text] On behalf of the armed institution, I express my most cordial greetings and gratitude for the opportunity you are giving me to come into your homes.

Today, army officers, wanting to express their professional spirit, wishing to reintegrate themselves within the dignity of a people and trying to enhance values, carried out a military movement that I preside over with honor. I lead it within a government junta that I now present to you; General Maldonado and Colonel Gordillo.

We three comprise a junta that is carrying out a political program to present to the Guatemalan people a solution, a proposal and a reality; a proposed solution to this incomprehensible political experience we have had and a reality. We are soldiers; I have the ability and the responsibility as a general to politically act not because of the petty politics that confuses everyone but in my capacity as a general in the strategic concept. Compatriots: Strategy is the beginning of all political tasks and within that strategy there are security, defense, economic, social and foreign policies. We are going to present to you a government program within these parameters.

I wanted to take advantage of this opportunity, fellow citizens, to tell you that the Guatemalan people are rejoicing and that we soldiers, filled with joy and enthusiasm, pledge our word to give political solutions to the political tasks, to give economic solutions to the economic tasks and to give social solutions to the great social problems that we are facing.

Fellow citizens: You must understand that in a military movement, capacity and dignity are expressed but essentially there is morality. I first want to tell you fellow citizens that I trust that God, my lord and king, will guide me because only he gives and takes away authority. I am trusting in my God; therefore, I will not defraud the officers or a people, a people who have not been respected, a people who have been slapped. Eight years ago I was defrauded. Four years ago, we were defrauded and now a few days ago we were defrauded again.

Guatemalans, be aware and be sure that the army is not only the soldiers who wear uniforms but also are you fellow citizens who have the duty and responsibility to give us your hand and to walk with us toward a more peaceful future. I hope that God, our Lord, will spread his mantle of mercy and grace over Guatemala, will enlighten us and will permit you and us to offer a new course to the country's political life.

There are many doubts and many more doubts in your minds, fellow citizens. We have many concerns but a lot of seriousness and responsibility. We want to tell you fellow citizens -- before you, before our God who will judge us and above all, before the young officers who want to shake off the load of the manipulation of command -- that we promise loyalty, loyalty. You must understand this and help us. We are not suspending any individual rights; we are not suspending human rights; but above all, let us make freedom the expression of responsbility; let us make freedom a conduct of life; and let us make freedom a citizen's task.

The political parties do not have anything to do at this time. We are going to present an expression and we are going to see if they are true political parties because they have only been electoral political parties. They have not been political parties that have given political solutions to a people that need them. That is why, fellow citizens, we want your understanding. We want your support because, in truth, if we do not have your support, then the communists will have to come and fix Guatemala. And hear me well; subversion must not continue. Political tasks are going to be carried out under the political viewpoint.

Weapons are only for the army; weapons are only for the army. Please, all armed civilians; remember to relinquish your machineguns and your pistols and pick up the machete in order to work. We need work, responsibilities and honor. There is a challenge for Guatemala. Let us accept that challenge and build a nation, integrated by its people who are united and identified with ideas and ideals. God and Guatemala come first for us and for you, and only in this way can we join our efforts to work for Guatemala.

I am grateful to you for the opportunity you are giving me, and rest assured, fellow citizens, that the Guatemalan Army again offers its word of honor, through myself as a professional soldier, to make every effort, even to offer our lives, to benefit the nation's political activities.

We do not want any more petty politics or the same faces or anyone to come to congratulate or help us. We already know that kind of person. Please, do not even come near us. We are professional soldiers and we are politically, socially and economically capable of guaranteeing all Guatemalans a tranquil and just life.

Please, subversive members, take note of the following: Only the Guatemalan Army must have arms. You should drop your arms because if you do not do so, we will take the arms away from you. And listen well, gentlemen; there will no more murdered people on the roadsides; anyone who acts against the law shall be executed. Let's not have anymore murders. We want to respect human rights and defend them. It is the only way to learn to live democratically.

That is why I first recommend a prayer to God Our Lord to permit us to continue developing a program in peace that we shall submit to your consideration. Secondly, we ask for your cooperation, your tranquillity and your peace. The peace of Guatemala does not depend on arms. It depends on you men, women and children. Yes, the peace of Guatemala is in your hearts. Once there is peace in your hearts, there shall be peace in your home and our society. Please let's not have any more drinks or anything else. Let us get to work. Guatemala needs work. There are no sources of work; there is no confidence. There is no authority.

Guatemalans: Today we tell you before God that we commit the word of the armed institution to guarantee you peace, work and security. Thank you and good night!

NICARAGUA

AMBASSADOR TO HONDURAS RECALLED FOR CONSULTATION

PA240154 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] A few minutes ago, Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras Guillermo Suarez Rivas arrived in the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua. He reported that he had been urgently called by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry.

In a brief talk with newsmen, Suarez Rivas said that Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica had expressed to him his willingness to hold a meeting with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman to discuss the relations between the two countries. The diplomat said that a difficult situation was created following the charges made against Nicaragua alleging the existence of a Nicaraguan espionage network in Honduras based on accusations made by counterrevolutionary deserter Noel Ernesto Vasquez from the Honduran jail.

In this regard, he stressed that he had personally held a lengthy news conference in Tegucigalpa to let the Honduran press know the scope of that slander. He added that in the news conference he emphasized the cordial nature of the relations between Honduras and Nicaragua.

The mother of Noel Vasquez was also in the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport. She issued an appeal to the Honduran authorities to have her son returned to Nicaragua.

KIRKPATRICK'S COMMENTS ON CHARGES REJECTED

PA240359 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] The imperialists throw the stone and now they want to conceal their hand. Jeane Kirkpatrick has described Nicaragua's charges as absurd and scandalous. Kirkpatrick, the brusque representative of the Reagan administration at the United Nations, tried today to hide U.S. aggressive policy against Central America, particularly Nicaragua, behind a veil of innocence.

Shortly before entering a consultation meeting of the UN Security Council in New York, the U.S. delegate described the Nicaraguan accusations about the U.S. plans of aggression against the Nicaraguan revolution as absurd, scandalous and ridiculous.

The council began its consultations in a private meeting at 1600 New York time, in order to establish the procedures for the emergency meeting requested by Nicaragua.

It has also been learned that Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has decided to postpone until tomorrow his trip to the United States to speak at the Security Council session.

Diplomatic sources also said that at the request of Nicaragua there will be a meeting tomorrow afternoon of the group of nonaligned countries prior to the Security Council session.

Observers have said that the U.S. ambassador's remarks do not show a desire by the United States to ease tensions. This contrasts with the repeated calls for dialogue and peace issued by the Nicaraguan Government. They also said that while U.S. spy planes fly over Nicaragua, pirate ships are in the Gulf of Fonseca. The U.S. press reports the existence of a $19-million CIA plan to destabilize the Nicaraguan process. Counterrevolutionary gangs train in Miami and sabotage actions have begun with the blowing up of two bridges in northern Nicaragua. U.S. Ambassador Kirkpatrick will have to make a real effort to convince the Security Council that Nicaragua's charges are as absurd as she claims.

BARRICADA DEFENDS NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECREE

PA231415 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Mar 82 p 3

[Editorial: "Emergency To Save the Future"]

[Text] When a revolution that has been waged with the effort and sacrifice of an entire peoples is threatened with death and attacked by its enemies, it has the historic obligation and right to defend itself with every means within reach. To act to the contrary would not only be dire irresponsibility, but treason against the future of people who have invested all their confidence and hope in the revolutionary leadership that took them to victory over their oppressors.

And when the fatherland is seriously threatened, as Nicaragua is today by the destabilization plans of U.S. imperialism, there is no alternative but to prepare to defend it with laws, with arms, and with the people.

That is just what our Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has done, with the total support of the FSLN National Directorate, in imposing the state of national emergency. This measure was not instituted to arbitrarily curtail liberties, but to save and defend the revolution from those who take advantage of these liberties to promote the counterrevolution and a return to a Somozist-type regime.

The state of emergency was not ordered to restrict the rights of our people but, on the contrary, to preserve them and prevent the enemies of liberty from having a field day in Nicaragua which would allow them to promote activities in support of the destabilization plan set in motion by the Reagan administration.

It was not by whim or caprice that the state of emergency was imposed, but as an obligatory response to the aggression which the fatherland has been experiencing. This was a responsible, calm measure within an institutional framework which will permit the nation's patriotic forces to mobilize their energies in an orderly manner and close ranks in the face of the aggression.

The enemies of Nicaragua abroad are organizing criminal destabilization plans, while those who carry out those plans, and those inside the country who serve them as sounding boards, attack the peoples achievements each day, seeking to disrupt normality in the nation.

This is not the time to hesitate or to sit with one's arms crossed. It is the hour of patriotism, of historic decision, of setting aside vested interests to think first and solely of Nicaragua. Nothing is more important today than the defense of the fatherland. That is why this is also the hour of definition for the minority groups which have not trusted the people's ability to struggle and win, instead mortgaging their luck to U.S. imperialism's plans for aggression. Now is the hour to correct their ways, because if they continue to obstruct defense of the fatherland they will be inexorably crushed by the revolutionary power.

The state of national emergency is the first indispensable step toward strengthening all the forces of the nation around the defense of the fatherland. And it must be complemented with greater effort toward organization of all the people in militias, with more work and defense discipline, with patriotism on the part of businessmen and professionals who stayed in Nicaragua because they love their fatherland and are ready to defend it, and, above all, with the awareness that we are living through a historic mement that demands the participation of all Nicaraguans if we are to succeed.

We are fully convinced that we are going to win!

WHEELOCK COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PA211433 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] The U.S. Government is in the hands of a small group of fascists as a result of a series of factors that can sometimes occur in the history of a country. These fascists are trying to turn the entire nation against Nicaragua, according to Commander Jaime Wheelock Roman, agricultural development and agrarian reform minister, who spoke this afternoon.

Wheelock, a member of the FSLN National Directorate, was recently in the United States where he tried to explain the Nicaraguan situation to the people. According to Commander Wheelock neither the U.S. Congress, economic sectors, religious groups nor labor organizations approve of the Reagan administration's warmongering and irresponsible policy.

As for Nicaragua's petition for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council, Commander Wheelock said that this was another effort by the Nicaraguan Government to maintain peace in the region. He said that Nicaragua is exercising its rights as a UN member to call this meeting, in order to denounce the fact that the most powerful nation in the world is trying to intimidate a small country. This would be a good occasion to let the world know what is really happening in Central America as a result of the attacks on the Sandinist revolution, Wheelock indicated.

In comments to newsmen, Commander Wheelock analyzed the current situation and also referred to the relations that existed between Somoza and Alexander Haig, U.S. secretary of state, who were roommates at West Point:

[Begin recording] [Wheelock] The [U.S.] administration considers that the events in Vietnam, Angola and Nicaragua were the results of a weak policy by other administrations and that U.S. supremacy must therefore be restored. After making comparisons and telling the world that they will stop any revolution, even by using armed force because it was part of Reagan's platform, [words indistinct] At this stage they have been going from one failure to another. Nicaragua's case involves a small country in the process of reconstruction.

It is a militarily weaker country against which the United States can demonstrate its power in an irresponsible way. Therefore, they have begun to poison U.S. public opinion and deceive the U.S. Congress and officials within the administration itself with a series of absurd and fabricated reports and information to justify an attack on Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, we have conducted ourselves in an irreproachable and honorable manner internationally, trying to find a peaceful solution and understanding. First, we have had to put on our gloves to let the Reagan administration know that we are prepared to repel its interventions. Second, we are calling the world's attention so that through [words indistinct] like the United Nations put the United States on trial. They are planning invasions, destabilization, terrorism and assassination against Nicaraguans without any sanctions being taken against them. We feel that the United Nations is the most adequate organization to deal with this matter.

The United States has not answered our offers of friendship but instead has threatened us and continues its plans of aggression. Right now there are U.S. ships off the Nicaraguan coast: Therefore, we have decided to call for a UN Security Council meeting because certain hostile acts have been carried out -- as if we were at war -- such as treating a Nicaraguan citizen as a prisoner and taking him to the State Department and (?the White House).

[Question] What are the possibilities of the UN Security Council contributing to a positive solution to the area's problem?

[Answer] Look, the Central American problems must be solved by Central Americans. Armed intervention must be condemned by all nations. Nicaragua wants to live in peace, to be respected [words indistinct]. We are not asking the United States for money or anything else; we just want them to let us live in peace.

[Question] Commander, at this point when many countries are [words indistinct] do you think the United States [words indistinct]

[Answer] In the first place, I just returned from the United States and I have been able to corroborate that the people of the United States do not wish to attack Nicaragua. I would say that a large number of U.S. congressmen are against an interventionist and aggressive policy. In the second place, U.S. public opinion, the main newspapers and the three main television networks are opposed to intervention. They are openly expressing the just positions we have been presenting. An important sector of the United States, for example, those organized through the churches, the communities [words indistinct] do not approve of the U.S. Government's policy. Therefore, what we have is a small, reduced and isolated group in the administration trying to punish a country because that country is free and had defeated a tyranny here with which the United States had many deep ties. For instance, Mr Alexander Haig was Somoza's personal friend: He visited Nicaragua on several occasions, invited by Somoza, and he was Somoza's roommate at West Point. He also arranged a trip for Somoza to the United States whn no one wanted to see him. Mrs Kirkpatrick said that Somoza's fall was an irreparable loss for the Western world. Reagan continues his platform to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. We have a fascist and terrorist group in the United States trying to turn a whole nation against us.

[Question] Taking into account prior decisions of the UN Security Council [words indistinct] in the face of similar situations as Nicaragua's. Taking this into consideration, what is the real possibility that the UN Security will contribute to a solution?

[Answer] Nicaragua will demand the Security Council take a stand on what is occurring here. As a UN member we have this right when we feel that we are being attacked and threatened and when the threat is actually occurring every day.

We feel that our petition has international significance and gives us the opportunity to publicize our desire to have peace and solve the problems through the civilized means in which they should be solved. We want to draw attention to the fact that a powerful nation like the United States is trying to attack a small country. This is an intolerable situation that other countries cannot permit. We have the [word indistinct] to defend ourselves, which is what we have in the last instance, but we also have the right to use the mechanisms that as a nation [words indistinct]. [end recording]

KOREAN VISITS STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES

PA200357 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Government junta member Sergio Ramirez Mercado and Korean Premier Yi Chong-ok visited important enterprises belonging to the Foreign Trade and Industry Ministries this morning. During the tour, Sergio Ramirez, Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca and Industry Deputy Minister Gilberto Guzman escorted the Korean delegation visiting our country to the Coffee Tasting Center [Centro de Catacion del Cafe], the institution that analyzes coffee produced by Nicaragua and determines which can be exported.

They also visited the Nicaraguan Cotton Enterprises, ENAL, where companero (Frank Royos) explained the cotton classification process to Companero Yi Chong-ok. Afterward, the group went to the (Tamplax) Cotton Mill to see how it works.

The group concluded its tour of state-owned enterprises with a visit to the largest metal plant in the country, (Metasa). Before touring (Metasa), Companero Yi Chong-ok expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome given his delegation and noted his satisfaction at knowing that ingot iron from Korea is being used in (Metasa) for the country's development. The Korean leader then toured the factory's installations. The tour concluded in the workers' dining hall, where he greeted the Nicaraguan working class on behalf of his people and government. He noted there that the workers' efforts will serve to strengthen the revolution's defensive capacity and the nation's technological development.

Later the Korean premier met with the revolutionary government, the Sandinist armed forces and foreign diplomats. An event attended by Comrade Yi Chong-ok, the government junta, the cabinet, members of the armed forces and the diplomatic corps in Nicaragua served to demonstrate the solidarity and sympathy that exists between Nicaragua and the DPRK. Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, government junta coordinator, spoke on behalf of the junta, saying:

[Begin Ortega recording] We must acknowledge the solidarity that the DPRK people, government and party gave the Nicaraguan people both before and after 19 July. The presence of our Korean brothers in Nicaraguan territory now should surprise no one. We were brothers yesterday, we are brothers now and we will continue as brothers in the future. This is why we again welcome our brother Yi Chong-ok, distinguished representative of the people of the DPRK and of their great leader, Companero Kim Il-song, to Nicaragua. [applause] [end recording]

HANOI STATEMENT SUPPORTS SANDINIST GOVERNMENT

PA220044 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] The Vietnamese charge d'affaires in Nicaragua, (Nguyen Van Dang), this morning read a declaration of solidarity with free Nicaragua, based on the principles of peace promulgated by the Sandinist Revolutionary Government. The following is the recorded announcement read by (Nguyen Van Dang):

[Begin recording -- (Nguyen) in Spanish] Statement by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Vietnam on Central America and the Caribbean:

The present situation in Central America and the Caribbean has become quite tense due to the warmongering and interventionist policy and threat of aggression on the part of the Reagan administration.

Contrary to the interests of the North American people, and challenging the ever-increasing aversion of the peoples, the overwhelming majority of the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, and international public opinion, U.S. imperialism is engaged in an increasingly rude interventionist policy in the Central American and Caribbean area, particularly in El Salvador. At the same time it intensifies hostile actions against Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada, seriously threatening the independence, sovereignty, security and peace of these countries.

The Reagan administration has introduced and continues to introduce in El Salvador large quantities of arms and war material as well as military advisers to help that dictatorial regime to continue massacring the people of that country. Parallel to this, the remaining Somozist groups and other reactionaries financed and armed by the United States are on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border engaged in armed provocations in evident coordination with CIA plans of sabotage and subversion against Nicaragua.

At the same time, it has increased its naval and air forces jointly with NATO units, carrying out large-scale military maneuvers in the Caribbean Sea. The United States continues to defame Nicaragua and Cuba, charging them with intervention in the internal affairs of El Salvador, attempting to conceal and justify its own intervention and pave the way for new adventures in Central America and the Caribbean. It aims to maintain in power the puppet regimes of El Salvador and other countries and to continue undermining the Nicaraguan revolution and the revolutionary liberation movements in the entire area.

The people and government of the SRV strongly denounce and condemn such extremely dangerous plans and actions on the part of the Reagan administration. They express their firm support for the cause of the defense and national construction of the peoples and governments of Nicaragua, Cuba and Grenada, as well as to the just and victorious struggle of the Salvadoran people for democracy, freedom and their right to self-determination.

The most correct solution to the present tension in the Central American and Caribbean area would be the immediate suspension by the Reagan administration of its policy of intervention and aggression in the area, respecting the principle of self-determination of the peoples, and a responsible reaction to the just and well-intentioned position expressed in the five-point proposal of the Nicaraguan Government, and the letter of President Fidel Castro, praising the three-point proposal of the Mexican President.

Hanoi, 19 March 1982. [End Recording]